



CULHAM ST GABRIEL'S
CHAMPIONING RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS EDUCATION

What do we mean by “Ways of Knowing” in RE?

In RE lessons, children learn not only **what people believe and practice**, but **how knowledge is developed and studied**. We call this **ways of knowing**, or disciplinary knowledge.

Just as scientists, historians or artists ask different kinds of questions, in RE children and young people are taught about **different kinds of questions** people ask about **religious and non-religious traditions**. They use **different scholarly methods** for finding out about these traditions. Sometimes they use interpretation, analysis or historical enquiry. At other times, they might use reasoning, discussion and careful argument. Interviews, observations, data, and case studies are also important ways in which to investigate religious and non-religious traditions.

Using a **range of methods** helps children and young people understand that **religious and non-religious worldviews** are **complex** and **varied**, and that people may interpret the same ideas in different ways. It also shows children that knowledge is built through evidence, interpretation, questioning and dialogue.

Giving children and young people these tools to explore differences thoughtfully and respectfully has **never been more important** in an **increasingly globalised and interconnected world**. It develops life skills, helping them encounter different ideas and engage in respectful discussions on complex issues they find in the news and on social media. It **prepares them for work**, helping them understand and respect individuals and their different responses to life's big questions. It can support **community cohesion**, **fostering mutual respect** and reducing misunderstanding about different faiths and beliefs found in modern Britain and around the world.

